AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 31, as follows:

In some preferred embodiments, a preS1 (94-117) peptide may have the following amino acid sequence;

PX₁STNRQSGRQPTPX₂SPPLRX₃X₄HP (SEQ ID NO:1)

where X_1 , X_2 , X_3 and X_4 may be any amino acid.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 8, as follows: In some especially preferred embodiments, a preS1 (94-117) peptide may have one of the following sequences $(X_1, X_2 \text{ and } X_3 \text{ shown in bold})$;

- (i) PASTNRQSGRQPTPLSPPLRNTHP (SEQ ID NO:2)
- (ii) PASTNRQSGRQPTPLSPPLRTTHP (SEQ ID NO:3)
- (iii) PASTNRQSGRQPTPISPPLRDSHP (SEQ ID NO:4)

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 17, as follows:

A peptide consisting of the preS1#94-117 sequence of the HBV subtypes *adw*, *adw*₂ and two out of three described *adr* subtypes (i.e. PASTNRQSGRQPTPISPPLR**DS**HP) (SEQ ID NO:4) were obtained from Sigma Genosys, London Road, Cambridge, UK. The peptide was supplied lyophilized, resuspended in sterile distilled water and kept at -20°C. The purity was >95% by HPLC.

Before the Figures, insert the Sequence Listing submitted herewith.